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SOURCE Ch'un-chung Jih-pao.

WRITER SCORES 6 NORTHWEST NEWSPAPERS FOR HANDLING
OF REPORTS ON SSFA CONFERENCE, STALIN'S ATOM BOMB STATEMENT

In a commentary in the 21 December 1951 issue of the Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, Yen Yu-chen (延玉珍) scored the editorial staffs of six newspapers in six major cities of the Northwest China Regional District for errors and indifference in reporting "vital international and national political matters." Yen attributed the inadequate propaganda efforts of the editorial staffs to their failures to comprehend the significance and doctrinal value of such news as Stalin's atom bomb statement of 6 October 1951 and the All-China Delegates' Conference of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association held from 5 to 13 October 1951. He demanded an intensification of propaganda activity among the masses of the Northwest China Regional District.

Yen criticized the Ch'ing-hai Tsinghai Jih-pao, Ning-hsia Ningsia Jih-pao, Sian Shensi Jih-pao, Lan-chou Kansu Jih-pao, Urumchi Sinkiang Jih-pao, and the Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao itself, for the way they handled news on the following occasions:

1. The Second Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. (1 October 1951).
2. The 13 October 1951 directive of the Resist America, Aid Korea General Headquarters, on the commemoration of the first anniversary of the departure to Korea of the Volunteer Army.
3. The 18 September 1951 statement of Chou En-lai on opposing the US-Japanese unilateral peace treaty.
4. Opening (5 October 1951) and closing (13 October 1951) sessions of the All-China Delegates' Conference of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association.
5. The 6 October 1951 statement of Stalin on the atom bomb issue.

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It is of interest to note that although Yen is somewhat more severe in his criticism regarding the failure of the newspapers in question to emphasize such developments of international significance as the All-China Delegates' Conference of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and Stalin's A-bomb statement, he places these two last in his list of political matters of vital importance, while the second anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is first.

Representative Chinese mainland papers were scanned to determine whether or not other newspapers in other parts of China were criticized for a similar failure to emphasize "vital international and national political matters." No such criticisms were found in the following newspapers for the dates indicated:

Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 19 - 24 December 1951
 Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 19 - 23 December 1951
 Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 19 - 24 December 1951
 Nanking Hsin-hua Jih-pao, 19 - 23 December 1951
 Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 19 - 23 December 1951

However, the day following the appearance of Yen's article, on 22 December 1951, the Sian Ch'un-chung Jih-pao carried reports of the first meeting of the delegates of the Northwest Regional District Sino-Soviet Friendship Association. A congratulatory telegram to Stalin on his 72d birthday and telegraphed messages to Mao Tse-tung and Liu Shao-ch'i reporting the opening of the first session of the delegates' conference of the Northwest Regional District Sino-Soviet Friendship Association were also in this issue. Neither the conference nor the telegrams were mentioned in the 21 December 1951 issue.

The text of the 21 December commentary, which was entitled "Emphasize Propaganda on Important International and National Political Matters," follows:

With regard to propaganda on important international and national political matters, newspapers in the Northwest Regional District are basically attentive. However, because of inadequate cognizance of certain vital international and national political matters, irresponsibility has appeared. In October 1951, in an editorial entitled "Treat With Respect the Telegrams of Chairman Mao and Generalissimo Stalin," the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao examined the manner in which papers throughout the nation had printed the congratulatory telegrams of Chairman Mao and Generalissimo Stalin on the 3 September anniversary of the victory of the anti-Japanese War.

The Jen-min Jih-pao held that if these words of the telegrams "...attests to the firm and unbreakable friendship between China and the Soviet Union and to the incomparable potential for defending peace in the Far East..." were not properly displayed, their applicability to the indoctrination of the broad masses would be greatly impaired. In addition, it was noted that indifference to this vital question would be taken as irresponsible neglect and construed as a political error. Since we are aware that the Jen-min Jih-pao is entirely correct in this criticism, the interest of the editorial departments of all newspapers in our Northwest Regional District should be aroused on the ideological level.

In keeping with the spirit of the criticism presented in the Jen-min Jih-pao, for the months of September and October, we have examined the newspapers from various areas of the Northwest Regional District with regard to the presentation of important international and national political matters. We have discovered that several newspapers placed inadequate stress on certain important political matters in the manner of arrangement, and that they still retain serious shortcomings. The following are examples of what we mean:

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1. With regard to propaganda on the second anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic, celebrated on 1 October 1951, we know that our nation has achieved great successes on all sides which fully attest to the superiority of the socialist system of our New Democracy. This national holiday is thus a vital matter in the politics and life of the broad masses of our land. Our newspapers should carry through a great drive on this anniversary and direct a patriotic thought-indoctrination campaign at the general public to stimulate them to love, defend, and rebuild the fatherland.

However, the directive promulgated on 22 September 1951 by the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, entitled "Celebrate the Second Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Republic," was not printed until 27 September on the third page of the Tsinghai Jih-pao and 24 September on the fourth page of the Ningsia Jih-pao. The news that Chairman Mao had given a banquet on the eve of the national holiday, that Commander in Chief Chu Te had issued a directive, and that Peiping had celebrated the anniversary with a huge meeting was not printed in the Ningsia Jih-pao until 5 October 1951. Then it was carried on the fourth page.

2. To resist the US and aid Korea is an important political responsibility for our people. The directive commemorating the first anniversary of the departure to the front of the Volunteer Army was issued on 13 October 1951 by the Resist America, Aid Korea General Headquarters and was vital for continuing resolute resistance to the US and aid to Korea. It was therefore headlined in all newspapers throughout the nation and displayed prominently on front pages. This was not the case in the Northwest. For example, although the Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, printed the directive in the lower left corner of the front page, it was not printed until 17 October. The directive was printed on the third page of the Shensi Jih-pao (issued once every two days), and appeared on the third page of the Tsinghai Jih-pao. This is highly unsatisfactory.

3. Opposition to the US Unilateral Peace Treaty with Japan and to US remilitarization of Japan is not only vital to the peace and security of all Asia and the world, but also to the peace and security of our nation. Should the large-scale remilitarization of Japan by the US prove successful, then the people of Asia and the world, especially the people of China, will be faced with a serious new danger. The people of our nation still remember the great contributions and heroic sacrifices made during the anti-Japanese War. For this reason, our efforts in propagandization should be more fully expended. However, we have a few indifferent newspapers.

The statement issued by Chou En-lai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 18 September 1951 with regard to opposing the drafting of the US peace treaty, was held by the Tsinghai Jih-pao until 24 September and then it appeared on the third page. The statement was printed in the Ningsia Jih-pao on 21 September but it was placed on the fourth page.

4. The All-China Delegates' Conference of the SSFA, (5 - 13 October 1951) is indicative of the great fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of China and the USSR and of the invincibility of this friendship and cooperation in the world. This friendship and cooperation is an important guarantee of New China's successful reconstruction and the strongest bulwark in the defense of world peace. To buttress and develop Sino-Soviet friendship is of vital importance not only in our national reconstruction, but also in the defence of national, Asian, and world peace. But all news of the opening and closing of this highly significant conference appeared on the third page of the Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, on the fourth page of the Kansu Jih-pao and the Sinkiang Jih-pao, and on the third page of the Shensi Jih-pao. To be indifferent with regard to strengthening propaganda on Sino-Soviet friendship is unsatisfactory.

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5. The answers given to a Pravda reporter on 6 October 1951 by Stalin concerning the atom bomb issue constitute a discussion of vast political significance for defending the peace of the world. However, the interest shown by certain newspapers was entirely inadequate. The Ningsia Jih-pao delayed printing the article until 11 October, and then carried it on the fourth page.

The 19 October statement of the Soviet Union on the Korean situation and on US-Soviet relations was not printed by the Shensi Jih-pao until 23 October and by the Tsinghai Jih-pao on 25 October, and in both cases the news appeared on the third or fourth page.

The brief interview and statement mentioned above have generated incalculable energy for bolstering an enduring peace and are undoubtedly political questions of most vital interest to the people of the nation. The manner of presentation of these articles by some newspapers, however, was entirely unsatisfactory and indicates unawareness and indistinct cognizance.

The above-cited examples give ample evidence that certain newspapers still do not emphasize propaganda on important international and national political matters. We know that these papers, especially those published every 2 or 3 days, are confronted with certain practical problems. Specifically, the editorial desks of some papers have no cadres or persons for special assignment to sift, constantly and carefully, important international and national political matters. Consequently, there is no continuous integration and editing of this kind of propaganda.

However, we know of a more important and basic cause for this phenomenon: the editorial desks of our papers do not understand or else they fail to comprehend fully that these vital political matters are indispensable newspaper material for effecting political liaison with and education of the masses. These materials are closely connected with practical work in and the general public of each particular region. The masses are deeply concerned about these important international and national political matters and yet these important documents are improperly arranged and displayed in manner similar to the above-cited cases.

Naturally a local newspaper should devote much space to reports of local work and local activity, but it must not neglect propaganda on important international and national political matters. Neglect of propaganda on important political events should not be excused by blaming the paper's localism.

It is incorrect for a provincial newspaper, which is aware that the newspapers of the regional district and the Central People's Government have already printed certain news, to delay printing the same item, to place it in an inconspicuous position, or to carry irrelevant material.

The format of a newspaper should include a designated position for local, national, and international news. This does not mean, however, that important political matters, which ought to be printed on page 1 in a prominent position, should be automatically relegated to a designated page. It is permissible for local papers to publish important political matters after "popularizing" the meaning of the news, but this does not imply that on such account printing may be delayed. We recognize that all such "reasons" and "difficulties" ought to be weighed and examined for political content and then every effort made to devise ways and means to overcome them. Such will be the correct responsible attitude.

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Therefore, we make the following proposals:

1. After the editorial desk of each local newspaper has emphasized, from the ideological viewpoint, propaganda on important international and national political matters, special cadres, or specific persons, ought to be assigned to examine constantly and carefully, the advent, change, and development of important international and national political matters. These persons should fully grasp matters which are closely connected with the interests of our people and about which the general public are deeply concerned. Such matters should receive "timely" and careful presentation in the paper.
2. To strengthen the leadership in the editorial desk with regard to important political matters, the entire editorial staff must be taught consciously to stress important political matters. Current affairs forums and reporting sessions must be constantly organized.
3. It is the responsibility of editorialists and reporters to understand and reflect the ideological attitude of the masses everywhere with regard to important international and national political matters and to key this attitude to the personal experience and practical interest of the masses. It is imperative that what is uppermost in the minds of the people be popularized in timely and selective essays, short critiques, and organized discussions. The propaganda line must be explained and the masses must be assisted in solving problems by discussion.

In connection with these important foreign and domestic affairs, the masses are just becoming aware that imperialism and life in the people's democracies are irreconcilable and contradictory categories. They are becoming aware that there is an indivisible tie between private day-to-day labor, activity, and living and the people's force directed at national and world peace. This awareness had led to increased active participation by the national populace in buttressing national defences, rebuilding the fatherland, and protecting world peace. Emphasis on propaganda dealing with important international and national political matters has undoubtedly elevated the political level of the masses to unbounded heights and has increased hundredfold the patriotic fervor and international spirit of the general public.

With more courage and determination, with renewed confidence in the righteous and patriotic struggle, we must strive, from the people's level, to effect lasting world peace for mankind.

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